

PROCEEDINGS
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THE WEST AFRICAN FOREST PIG (*HYLOCHOERUS*
RIMATOR THOMAS).

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Through the generosity of Col. William Barbour, the Museum of Comparative Zoology has recently received a skin and skull of the West African Forest Pig (*Hylochoerus rimator*). I am indebted to the authorities of the Museum for permission to make a brief report on this interesting specimen, the first of its kind, apparently, to reach America. Reports had for some years previously been current of a "Giant Pig" inhabiting the forests of Equatorial Africa, but it was not until 1904 that actual specimens were obtained from British East Africa and sent to the British Museum. These, consisting of two skulls, an imperfect skin, and a fragment of hide, were made the basis of the new genus and species *Hylochoerus meinertzhageni* by Thomas.* A number of specimens of this species have now reached European museums, so that it is fairly well known as regards external and cranial characters. In 1906 Thomas† described a second species, *H. rimator*, from the Ja River, Cameroons, West Africa. This was based on a single skull of a female specimen, and hitherto no notice has appeared of the external characters nor have other skulls apparently reached museums. The following notes are therefore offered regarding the Forest Pig in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and are of particular interest since the specimen is a topotype, obtained at the Ja River, Cameroons, by Mr. G. L. Bates, the same gentleman who procured the type skull.

Color.—The muzzle is thickly covered with short black bristles some 10 mm. long, which increase in length posteriorly becoming about 25 mm. in length on the cheeks. The entire edge of the ear is fringed with long

* Thomas, O. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1904, Vol. 2, pp. 193-199, pls. 14, 15.

† Thomas, O. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1906, pp. 2, 3, figs. 1, a, b.

black bristles which reach a length of 50 mm. at the apex; the posterior surface has a very few scattered fine black bristles, but is otherwise practically bare. The body is covered with coarse black bristles which are longest on the neck and the dorsal ridge. The longest neck hairs measured 164 mm., those on the middle area of the back, 132 mm. The fore and hind legs are furnished with shorter bristles, from 10 to 20 mm. long. On the ventral surface of the body, scattered among the sparse black bristles are others of a pale cinnamon color or "yellowish white." Similar light-colored hairs are present on the inner side of the fore legs and thighs, and on the anterior edge and proximal two-thirds of the inner portion of the ears. At the corner of the mouth on each side is a patch of these light bristles for a length of about 65 mm., and a conspicuous tuft of the same along the posterior angle of the mandible, extending vertically some 45 mm., with a width of about 10 mm. The hoofs are smooth and blackish.

The skin is dark gray and rough, but there are no very definite warts on the face, except that below the ear, along the posterior angle of the mandible, is a thickened crescentic area on which grows the tuft of light bristles, in much the same position as a similar tuft in the Wart Hog (*Phacochoerus*). The tail is laterally compressed and bears a few small scattered black hairs, except along its dorsal and ventral edges, which for their terminal 55 mm. have a stiff crest of close-set black bristles the longest of which, at the tip of the tail, attain a length of some 30 mm.

Measurements of the skin.—The skin, preserved in brine, when straightened out, was found to measure approximately 1,500 mm. in total length, of which the tail is about 250 mm. The following additional measurements were made: Greatest transverse diameter of snout (*rhinarium*), 105 mm.; greatest vertical diameter, 57; distance between nasal apertures, 42; ear from meatus, 119; greatest breadth of ear, 91; median length of hoof of fore foot, 41; of dew claw, 41.5; median length of hoof of hind foot, 39; of dew claw, 35.

Skull.—The skull appears to be that of a nearly full-grown animal, doubtless a female, and is even smaller than the type specimen as indicated by the measurements. The last molars are just erupted and unworn. They are not so narrowed posteriorly as those figured by Thomas, but are bluntly rounded. Following are the measurements of this skull, with the corresponding dimensions of the type in parentheses: Median occipito-nasal length, 325 mm.; basal length, 279 (325±); palatal length, 196 (232); greatest length of nasals, 182 (191); greatest width of combined nasals posteriorly, 48 (42); greatest width between postorbital processes, 106; least interorbital width, 78 (88); least width between orbit and canines, 53; width at vertex, 90; orbit to tip of nasals, 213; height of muzzle in front of premolars, 65 (57); least breadth of maxillary zygomatic processes below orbit, 39 (42); least vertical breadth of zygomatica behind true orbit, 34.5 (36); palatal width between posterior ends of m^3 , 52; mandible from condyle to tip of i^1 , 277; depth of jaw at diastema, 42; width across sockets of canines, 97 (98); breadth between tips of canines, 163 (181); greatest diameter of canines, 25 (24); upper molar

row, 93; upper molar row from in front of pm^3 , 80 (97); lower molar row, 89; lower molar row from in front of pm_4 , 81 (99); last upper molar, 32.5 x 17 (42.3 x 17.5); penultimate upper molar, 19 x 14.5; last lower molar, 37 x 16 (48.2 x 16); penultimate lower molar, 21.5 x 12; lower diastema between premolars and canine, 51; between lower canine and incisor, 14.

The persistence of the milk pm^4 in the upper jaw was noted by Thomas in his specimen, and a similar condition is found in ours. In front of it are pm^2 , pm^3 , while wedged between them on both sides of the jaw is a minute splint evidently representing a persistent root of milk pm^3 .

In the Musée du Congo at Bruxelles are skins and skulls of a young female, a semi-adult, and an adult male Forest Pig from the Ituri Forest of Central Africa, which have been made the subject of an elaborate monograph by Matschie.* He figures the exterior and skulls of these specimens and considers that they represent a species distinct from the two before described, which he therefore names *Hylochoerus ituriensis*. It is apparently identical in color with *H. rimator* and *H. meinertzhageni*, but according to the describer, its skull shows certain peculiarities, chief of which are the following: (1) the salient crest from foramen magnum to vertex is much less marked than in the latter; (2) the zygomata are less bowed; (3) the nuchal plane at the posterior end of the skull is deeper; (4) the occiput is not directed backward so much as in *meinertzhageni*; (5) the canines are less curved at the tip and more pointed; (6) the angle made by the frontals with the nasals is slightly less; (8) the height of the lower jaw at the diastema is less than the least width of the palate, instead of being at least as great as is the case in the East African species.

Professor Matschie believes that the Ituri Pig can not be *H. rimator* because of the dimensions of the last upper and lower molars, which in two adults are respectively 39.6 and 40.3 x 19; and 42.5 and 43.5 x 16. Thomas gives for the type of *rimator* 42.3 x 17.5 and 48.2 x 17 for these dimensions, a difference not very great. The Ituri Pig's upper molar row measures in two adults, 90, 91.5; the lower molar row, 83.3, 90.5; those of our specimens are, 93 and 89 respectively. Matschie further states that in *rimator* and *meinertzhageni* the tubercles of m^3 forming the anterior angles of the two middle triangles do not touch, whereas in *ituriensis* they are in contact. In our specimen of *rimator* these tubercles are, however, in close contact. Apparently *ituriensis* is more nearly allied to *rimator* in size and cranial characters than to *meinertzhageni* and it may be questioned whether the characters claimed for it are really sufficient to warrant its recognition. At least it can be hardly more than subspecifically distinct.

That the term "Giant Pig" applied to these animals is a misnomer is now well recognized, for they are in reality not remarkably large, though standing fairly high. Photographs of living specimens of the East African *meinertzhageni* have recently appeared in the "Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London," 1908, part 1, p. 203, and in "Collier's Weekly," 1909 (article by A. R. Dugmore).

* Matschie, P. Ann. Mus. du Congo, Bruxelles, 1906, Zool. ser. 5, p. 23, pls. 5, fto.